



File Code: 1950-3

Date: November 7, 2006

Dear Planning Participant,

I am pleased to announce the release of the Record of Decision for the Red Pines Project on the Red River Ranger District of the Nez Perce National Forest in Idaho. The document is also available at the Nez Perce National Forest website at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce/projects/#nepaprojects>.

The Forest Service has prepared this Record of Decision (ROD) to present my selected alternative in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant Federal and State laws and regulations. The Record of Decision describes: the purpose and need; the activities I have approved in **Alternative E – Modified**; briefly reviews the alternatives I considered, and presents my decision rationale. I also summarize the public involvement process; my findings of consistency with relevant laws and policies and information about appeal provisions, implementation and how to contact us for more information.

The selected alternative, Alternative E - with minor modifications, will implement vegetation treatment on approximately 3,542 acres to reduce existing and potential fuel loads to reduce the effects of potential large-scale wildfire, improve the safety and effectiveness of firefighters in fire suppression activities, and contribute to the economic and social well being of residents and visitors within proximity to the project area. Road reconditioning would occur on 79 miles of road and 18 miles of temporary road would be constructed. The project would not construct any permanent roads. The watershed restoration activities include: 104 miles of road decommissioning, 577 acres of soil restoration, up to 56 stream crossing improvements, up to 21 culvert/log bridge removals, 21 mine site rehabilitations, riparian restoration along 20 miles of stream; up to 5 miles of fencing adjacent to streams, 8 miles of in-stream fish structure maintenance and 28 miles of large woody material placement; 2 miles of in-stream restoration at the "Narrows"; recreation site improvement of 15 acres, 1 rock quarry restoration and decommissioning of up to 3 sediment traps. Watershed restoration activities would be implemented prior to or concurrently with fuel reduction treatments as described in the Biological Opinions. This alternative would approve four site-specific project area, amendments to the Nez Perce Forest Plan. One amendment changes the standards for soils and three amendments make changes or additions to Appendix A of the Forest Plan, fisheries/water quality objectives.

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215.7. Individuals or organizations that submitted comments during the comment period specified at 215.6 may appeal this decision. A written Notice of Appeal meeting the requirements of Title 36 CFR 215.14 must be submitted (regular mail, fax, email, hand-delivery or express delivery) within 45 days of the date the legal notice of this decision is published in the Lewiston Morning Tribune (Lewiston, Idaho). It is the responsibility of the appellant to ensure their appeal is received in a timely manner. The publication date of the legal notice of the decision in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an appeal.



Appellants should not rely on date or timeframe information provided by any other source. Notice of Appeal must be submitted to:

Mailing Address:

USDA Forest Service, Northern Region
ATTN: Appeal Deciding Officer
P.O. Box 7669
Missoula, MT 59807

Electronic appeals must be submitted to:

appeals-northern-regional-office@fs.fed.us

Hand delivery or express delivery:

USDA Forest Service, Northern Region
Federal Building
ATTN: Appeal Deciding Officer
200 East Broadway
Missoula, MT 59807

FAX: (406) 329-3411

The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

In electronic appeals, the subject line should contain the name of the project being appealed, “**Red Pines Project**”. An automated response will confirm your electronic appeal has been received and acknowledge the agencies confirmation of receipt. If the sender does not receive an automated acknowledgement of the receipt of comments, it is the sender’s responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means. Electronic appeals must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to appeals-northern-regional-office@fs.fed.us. In the case where no identifiable name is attached to an electronic message, a verification of identity will be required. A scanned signature is one way to provide verification.

It is the appellant's responsibility to provide sufficient project- or activity-specific evidence and rationale, focusing on the decision, to show why my decision should be reversed. The appeal must be filed with the Appeal Deciding Officer in writing. At a minimum, the appeal must meet the content requirements of 36 CFR 215.14, and include the following information:

- The appellant’s name and address, with a telephone number, if available;
- A signature, or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for electronic mail may be filed with the appeal);
- When multiple names are listed on an appeal, identification of the lead appellant and verification of the identity of the lead appellant upon request;
- The name of the project or activity for which the decision was made, the name and title of the Responsible Official, and the date of the decision;
- State that the document is an appeal filed pursuant to 36 CFR part 215.
- Any specific change(s) in the decision that the appellant seeks and rationale for those changes;
- Any portion(s) of the decision with which the appellant disagrees, and explanation for the disagreement;
- State how the Responsible Official’s decision fails to consider comments previously submitted; either before or during the comment period specified in 36 CFR 215.6 and, if applicable, how the appellant believes the decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy.

If an appeal is received on this project there may be informal resolution meetings and/or conference calls between the Responsible Official and the appellant. These discussions would take place within 15 days after the closing date for filing an appeal. All such meetings are open to the public. If you are interested in attending any informal resolution discussions, please contact the Responsible Official or monitor the following website for postings about current appeals in the Northern Region of the Forest Service:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/projects/appeal_index.shtml.

If no appeals are filed within the 45-day time period, implementation of the decision may occur on, but not before, 5 business days from the close of the appeal filing period. When appeals are filed, implementation may occur on, but not before, the 15th business day following the date of the last appeal disposition.

Additional information is available from Project Leader Jennie Fischer of the Nez Perce Supervisors Office at the address or phone number above.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jane L. Cottrell
JANE L. COTTRELL
Forest Supervisor

cc: Terry Nevius
Jennie Fischer